

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Please replace the Abstract of the disclosure on page 13 with the following paragraph:

An apparatus to enable the automatic release of a railway vehicle hand brake system from either side of the vehicle ~~is provided. The apparatus~~ comprises a source of fluid pressure engageable with the vehicle. A release cylinder, ~~which is~~ operable by fluid pressure, is connected to a hand brake mechanism ~~that is engageable with a brake system disposed on the vehicle.~~ A valve ~~means~~ is connected intermediate the source of fluid pressure and the release cylinder ~~[. This valve means causes]]~~ causing the release cylinder to release the hand brake system. A first valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator is disposed on a first side of the vehicle and is connected intermediate the valve ~~means~~ and the source of fluid pressure. ~~This first valve actuation means causes the valve means to initiate communication of fluid pressure from the source of fluid pressure to the release cylinder.~~ A second valve ~~actuation means~~ actuator is disposed on an opposed second side of the vehicle and is connected intermediate the valve ~~means~~ and the source of fluid pressure. ~~This second valve actuation means also causes~~ Both the first and second valve actuators cause the valve ~~means~~ to initiate communication of fluid pressure from the source of fluid pressure to the release cylinder.